

**BEFORE THE ARIZONA STATE VETERINARY MEDICAL  
EXAMINING BOARD**

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	Case No.: 18-88
	)	
<b>DENNIS WHITE, DVM</b>	)	<b>FINDINGS OF FACT,</b>
Holder of License No. 0885	)	<b>CONCLUSIONS OF LAW</b>
	)	<b>AND ORDER</b>
	)	
For the practice of Veterinary	)	
Medicine in the State of Arizona,	)	
	)	
<b>Respondent.</b>	)	

On September 19, 2018 and October 17, 2018, the Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board conducted an Informal Interview regarding Dennis White, DVM ("Respondent"). The proceedings in this matter are governed by A.R.S. § 32-2234 (A). Respondent was advised of his right to legal counsel by letter, appeared, and participated in the Informal Interview. The Board reviewed all documents submitted regarding this matter, took testimony from Respondent, and proceeded as is permitted by A.R.S. § 32-2234 (A).

Following the Informal Interview and the Board's discussion of the information and documents submitted, the Board determined that Respondent's conduct constituted unprofessional conduct pursuant A.R.S. § 32-2232 (12) as it relates to AAC.R3-11-501 (1) professional acceptable procedures. After considering all of the information and testimony, the Board issues the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order, ("Order").

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1        1. Respondent is the holder of License No. 0885 issued on July 10, 1973, and is  
2 therefore authorized to practice the profession of veterinary medicine in the  
3 State of Arizona.

4        2. On November 7, 2017, "Angel," a 7-year-old female domestic short hair  
5 cat was presented to Respondent's associate, Dr. Adams, for vomiting and  
6 diarrhea. According to Complainant she advised staff that the cat was unable  
7 to defecate and this information was not recorded in the medical record. Upon  
8 exam, Dr. Adams noted the cat had a weight = 10 pounds, a temperature =  
9 101.1 degrees, a heart rate = 200bpm and a respiration rate = 30rpm. She  
10 further noted that the cat's abdomen was soft and doughy; there was severe  
11 dental disease and an unkempt, dry coat. Dr. Adams recommended blood  
12 work, including chemistry, CBC, T4 and FpL – complainant approved all except  
13 for T4.

14        3. Dr. Adams discussed the results with Complainant – FpL was abnormal  
15 and she suspected pancreatitis. Symptomatic treatment was recommended,  
16 injectable, and antibiotics due to neutropenia and the inability to rule out  
17 bacterial infection. Complainant requested oral medications to save money  
18 and Dr. Adams explained that they were not ideal in a vomiting cat;  
19 Complainant chose oral medications against medical advice. The cat was  
20 administered Lactated Ringer's Solution 200mLs SQ, and discharged with oral  
21 cerenia and Clavamox drops. Complainant was instructed to call if symptoms  
22 persisted.

23        4. On December 13, 2017, the cat was dropped off for Dr. Adams to  
24 examine due to vomiting, no diarrhea, but blood spots on bed; oral antibiotics  
25 were difficult to administer. According to Complainant, she did not realize the

1 appointment was a drop-off and stated that she again advised the receptionist  
2 that the cat was not defecating. Upon exam, the cat had a weight = 10  
3 pounds, a temperature = 99.9 degrees, a heart rate = 200bpm and a respiration  
4 rate = 50rpm. Dr. Adams had staff contact Complainant and recommend  
5 repeating blood work and performing radiographs as she was concerned for  
6 developing chronic pancreatitis. She could not palpate the cat's abdomen  
7 due to temperament. Complainant declined diagnostics and fluid therapy –  
8 requested convenia. Treatment not documented in medical record.

9 5. Complainant stated in her narrative that she did not receive a call from  
10 Dr. Adams. When she arrived to pick up the cat, staff was not able to answer  
11 her questions regarding the cat's diagnosis and treatment.

12 6. On January 19, 2018, the cat was presented to Respondent. Complainant  
13 reported that there was watery stool, no solid stool, and the cat was hunched  
14 for 1.5 days. The cat was licking rear end which was thick and dilated. Upon  
15 exam, the cat had a weight = 9 pounds, a temperature = 101.6 degrees, a  
16 heart rate = 180bpm and a respiration rate = 46pm. Respondent noted very firm  
17 stools through the GI tract and the anus was swollen due to constipation – he  
18 was concerned there was a possible obstruction. A treatment estimate was  
19 provided to Complainant which included buprenex, enema, convenia,  
20 Clavamox drops, lactulose and SQ fluids; Complainant approved.

21 7. The cat was administered the following:

- 22 a. 1<sup>st</sup> enema with no results;
- 23 b. Buprenex S/R 0.16cc SQ;
- 24 c. Lactated Ringer's Solution 250mLs SQ;
- 25

1 d. 2<sup>nd</sup> enema – two large puddles of stool produced – cat became  
2 nauseous;

3 e. Cerenia 0.4mLs SQ and

4 f. Clavamox drops 62.5mg/mL, 15mL; 1mL twice a day was dispensed.

5 8. Complainant had approved the estimate which included lactulose to be  
6 dispensed, but it was not sent home with the cat. Additionally, it appears the  
7 medical record submitted by Respondent and Dr. Adams have additional  
8 information in them on January 19, 2018 (which are not dated when entry was  
9 made) that were not in Complainant's records. The late entries are initialed  
10 "KS" – Karin Schorr, Hospital Administrator and do not appear to be made by  
11 Respondent who saw the cat on that date.

12 9. On January 24, 2018, Complainant called to request lactulose since the  
13 cat had still not defecated. Dr. Adams approved lactulose 2oz, 1mL three times  
14 a day with instructions to recheck in one day if the cat did not pass stool.

15 10. On January 25, 2018, Complainant presented the cat to Encanto Pet  
16 Clinic for a second opinion. Dr. Nausley examined the cat and noted hard firm  
17 stools in the caudal abdomen. The anal area was erythmic, distended and  
18 painful, with ulcerations of the anal mucosa. Dr. Nausley discussed  
19 obstipation/constipation and recommended blood work, radiographs and  
20 sedated fecal removal and rectal to assess for strictures. Complainant declined  
21 blood work and radiographs but approved sedation to address the fecal  
22 removal.

23 11. The cat was anesthetized, the fecal was removed and anal gland  
24 impaction was found. They were difficult to express and required flushing. There  
25 were ulcerations of the anal mucosa noted and topical medication was

1 applied and dispensed. SQ fluids were administered and a pet enema was  
2 placed post-op. Dr. Nausley recommended adding benefiber to the diet daily  
3 and Laxatone.

4 12. On January 31, 2018, Dr. Nausley examined the cat again. Complainant  
5 reported the cat was eating well and having small bowel movements. The  
6 abdomen palpated non-painful and the anal sacs were expressed again – the  
7 left side was already full of thick debris. Blood work was performed which was  
8 relatively normal and benefiber and Laxatone was recommended to be  
9 continued.

10 13. On February 17, 2018, Dr. Ireland, Dr. Nausley's associate, examined the  
11 cat; he changed the cat's diet and started her on Glandex, a nutritional  
12 supplement. Complainant reported that the cat was gaining weight and  
13 passing stool normally.

#### 14 15 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

16 14. The Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board has jurisdiction  
17 over this matter pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2201, et seq.

18 15. The conduct and circumstances described in the Findings of Fact above,  
19 constitutes a violation of **A.R.S. § 32-2232 (12)** as it relates to **A.A.C. R3-11-501**  
20 **(1)** failure to provide professionally acceptable procedures by not discussing  
21 long term home care instructions to manage constipation issues.

#### 22 23 **ORDER**

24 Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law it is  
25 **ORDERED** that Respondent's License, No. 0885 be placed on **PROBATION** for a

1 period of one year, subject to the following terms and conditions that shall be  
2 completed within the Probationary period. These requirements include five (5)  
3 total hours of continuing education (CE) detailed below:

4       **1. IT IS ORDERED THAT** Respondent shall provide written proof satisfactory  
5 to the Board that he has completed five (5) hours of continuing education (CE);  
6 hours earned in compliance with this order shall not be used for licensure  
7 renewal. Respondent shall satisfy these five (5) hours by attending CE in the  
8 area of GI issues in cats. Respondent shall submit written verification of  
9 attendance to the Board for approval.

10       **2. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT** Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of one  
11 hundred (\$100) on or before the end of the Probation period. Civil penalty shall  
12 be made payable to the Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board  
13 and is to be paid by cashier's check or money order.

14       **3. All continuing education to be completed for this Order shall be pre-**  
15 **approved by the Board.** Respondent shall submit to the Board a written outline  
16 regarding how he plans to satisfy the requirements in paragraph 1 for its  
17 approval within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Order. The outline  
18 shall include CE course details including, name, provider, date(s), hours of CE to  
19 be earned, and a brief course summary.

20       4. Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws/rules governing  
21 the practice of veterinary medicine in this state.

22       5. Respondent shall bear all costs of complying with this Order.

23       6. This Order is conclusive evidence of the matters described and may be  
24 considered by the Board in determining an appropriate sanction in the event a  
25 subsequent violation occurs. In the event Respondent violates any term of this

1 Order, the Board may, after opportunity for Informal Interview or Formal  
2 Hearing, take any other appropriate disciplinary action authorized by law,  
3 including suspension or revocation of Respondent's license.

4  
5 **REHEARING/APPEAL RIGHTS**

6 Respondent has the right to petition for a rehearing or review of this Order.  
7 Pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2234 (H) and § 41-1092.09 the petition must be filed with  
8 the Board within thirty-five (35) days from the date of mailing if the Order was  
9 served via certified mail. Pursuant to A.A.C. R3-11-904 (C), the petition must set  
10 forth legally sufficient reasons for granting the rehearing or review. The filing of  
11 a petition for rehearing or review is required to preserve any rights of appeal to  
12 the Superior Court that the party may wish to pursue.

13 This Order shall be effective and in force upon the expiration of the above  
14 time period for filing a motion for rehearing or review with the Board. However,  
15 the timely filing of a motion for rehearing or review shall stay the enforcement  
16 of the Board's Order, unless, pursuant to A.A.C. R3-11-904 (F), the Board has  
17 expressly found good cause to believe that this Order shall be effectively  
18 immediately upon the issuance and has so stated in this Order.

19  
20 Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2018.

21 Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board  
22 Jim Loughhead  
23 Chairman

24 By:   
25 Victoria Whitmore, Executive Director

1 Original of the foregoing filed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2018  
2 with the:

3 Arizona State Veterinary  
4 Medical Examining Board  
5 1740 W. Adams St., Ste. 4600  
6 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

7 Copy of the foregoing sent by certified, return receipt mail  
8 this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2018 to:

9 Dennis White, DVM  
10 Address on file  
11 Respondent

12 By:   
13 Board Staff